THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Based on various studies of National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development proposed in 1980 envisaging interbasin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs). NWDA has completed feasibility reports for 14 links 1 under Peninsular Rivers Development Component and two links under Himalayan Rivers Development Component.

(b) to (e) Two links projects under Peninsular Component viz. (i) Ken-Betwa involving the States of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh and (ii) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal involving the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were taken up as priority links. A tripartite agreement was signed among Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh on 25.8.2005 for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Ken-Betwa link. The work on completion of Ken-Betwa link project is dependent on signing of further agreements between the States as envisaged in Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and various statutory clearances after the completion of DPR. The taking up of DPR of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link is dependent on how soon the Government of Rajasthan conveys its consent in this regard.

World Bank Report on Water Development and Management

729. SHRI R.P GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed a recent report of the World Bank, title: India's Water Economy Bracing for Turbulent Future, highlighting *inter-alia* that the current water development and management system in India is not sustainable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the major findings/observations contained in the report and specific steps taken/proposed to be taken for improved water management/conservation practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Mr. John Briscoe

of the World Bank has recently prepared a draft Report titled "India's Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future". The report is based on study conducted by the World Bank on its own. The report in general discusses various aspects of water resources development and management in India and broadly covers the issues related to:

(i) adjusting to the needs of a changing India;

(ii) adjusting to scarcity and greater variability;

(iii) dealing with growing conflicts;

(iv) maintaining and renewing existing infrastructures;

(v) building infrastructure in under-served areas and for under-served public purposes;

(vi) making the transition from development to management and development;

(vii) revitalizing the machinery of government to deal with the turbulent water future; and

(viii) charting a prioritized, sequenced, pragmatic path for making improvements.

The National Water Policy, 2002 states that the resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by maximizing retention, eliminating pollution and minimizing losses and for this, measures like selective linings in the conveyance system, modernization and rehabilitation of existing systems including tanks, recycling and re-use of treated effluents and adoption of traditional techniques like mulching or pitcher irrigation and new techniques like drip and sprinkler may be promoted, wherever feasible.

Setting up of new river water tribunal

730. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the State Government of Punjab to set up a new river water tribunal reassess the quantum of water in the rivers which feed Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan; and